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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE:

COUNTR Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Lignite Production in the Russian Zone

ORIGIN [REDACTED] 25X1A
25X1X

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28 August 1947

SUPPLEMENT

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- 1 The four lignite-producing Lands of the Russian Zone (Mecklenburg produces no lignite) show the following comparative production statistics. The figures for 1946 and 1947 were compiled as confidential data by a group of Russian Zone industrialists and, according to source, are satisfactorily accurate. Statistics for 1938 and 1943 show monthly averages; those for 1946 and 1947, production in the month of May; amounts are in millions of tons.

Lign. - Lignite

Briq. - Briquettes

Land	1938 Average		1943 Average		1946, May		1947, May	
	Lign.	Briq.	Lign.	Briq.	Lign.	Briq.	Lign.	Briq.
Brandenburg (to Oder/Neisse Line)	2.2	0.580	2.98	0.830	1.5	0.370	1.3	0.425
Land Saxony	2.5	0.650	4.00	1.200	2.6	0.800	2.2	0.670
Province Saxony	5.0	1.000	6.6	1.400	4.4	1.100	4.7	0.940
Thuringia	0.53	0.190	0.5	0.220	0.45	0.215	0.37	0.170
Rough Total	10.0	2.500	14.1	3.600	10.0	2.500	8.6	2.200

2. It is observed that the output of lignite and briquettes in 1946 and 1947 was considerably below the 1943 (war) level but only slightly below the normal peacetime output. The height of the 1946 and 1947 figures is not, however, an indication of a return to normal production. Source points out that the two following factors influenced the May production:

- a. The month of May has a seasonal production high because of its long working days, and is therefore usually above the normal level of the year.

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- b. The effect of several large-scale dismantling actions in the lignite industry had not become apparent by May 1947. This dismantling has affected two processes and the related equipment: that of exposing the lignite, and that of removing it. When dismantling was impending, German lignite producers (including many Communist managers of plants) speeded up the exposure of lignite by every means at their disposal. The high output of May 1947, therefore, was to a considerable extent based on lignite reserves uncovered in previous months and removed by primitive equipment after the dismantling of the mining equipment. As soon as these limited reserves are exhausted, a sharp drop in lignite production may be expected.
3. Distribution of briquettes in May 1947 is given below. Discrepancies between these figures and those in paragraph 1 are due to the fact that the former are in round numbers only.

Reichsbahn in the Russian Zone	450,000 tons
Sawelereien (production of gas and oil)	500,000 tons
Compensation business to the western zones	200,000 tons
SMAD	100,000 tons
Berlin	120,000 tons
Industries in the Lands:	
Saxony Land	230,000 tons
Saxony Province	190,000 tons
Brandenburg	165,000 tons
Thuringia	145,000 tons
Mecklenburg	60,000 tons
	<u>790,000 tons</u>
	790,000 tons
Total	<u>2,160,000 tons</u>

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